

The logo for the Norwegian Refugee Council, consisting of the letters 'NRC' in white on an orange square background.

NRC

NORWEGIAN
REFUGEE COUNCIL

2024

THE WORLD'S
MOST NEGLECTED
DISPLACEMENT CRISES



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Design: Tove Skjeflo

Cover photo: "I have the impression that the more time passes, the more we are forgotten," says Haoua, who fled to Cameroon from the Central African Republic 10 years ago. Photo: Patricia Pouhe/NRC

Sources: UN Financial Tracking Service, Meltwater, ACAPS, IDMC, UNOCHA, UNHCR, WFP, NRC

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definition

neglect

1. To pay little or no attention to; fail to heed; disregard
2. To fail to care for or attend to properly
3. To fail to do or carry out, as through carelessness or oversight

Source: www.thefreedictionary.com/neglected

After being displaced within Mozambique, Virivir struggles to make a living after armed groups burned her house to the ground. Photo: Karl Schembri/NRC

It is time for action

In 2024, the number of people displaced across the globe surged to double what it was ten years ago. At the same time, humanitarian funding covered just half of the rising needs. Shifting domestic priorities, economic uncertainty and political fatigue have led to severe cuts in support for people affected by crisis and displacement. The world is in transition. But we must not accept this abandonment as a foregone conclusion. Displacement isn't a distant crisis; it's a shared responsibility. We must stand up and demand change.

Each year, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) publishes a report of the ten most neglected displacement crises in the world. The purpose is to focus on the plight of people whose suffering rarely makes international headlines, who receive little or no assistance, and crises that never become the centre of attention for international diplomacy efforts.

This is the list for 2024.

To reflect the neglect faced by both displaced people and their host countries, NRC revised the report's methodology this year to include refugee-hosting nations experiencing severe crises of their own. As a result, Iran, home to more than six million refugees, and Uganda, which hosts 1.75 million, appear in the report for the first time. Both crises have long been underfunded and overlooked, receiving little political or media attention. Their inclusion embodies the international community's continued disengagement from the countries shouldering the greatest responsibility.

Topping the list this year is Cameroon, a country that has repeatedly featured in this report. Grappling with three distinct and protracted crises, Cameroon remains largely overlooked by those with the power to respond. It is underreported on and underfunded: a case study in global neglect.

Ethiopia ranks second this year, its highest position since this report launched nine years ago, while Mozambique appears on the list for the first time, in third place. The Democratic Republic of the Congo has dropped to eighth, its lowest position to date, and Burkina Faso, which topped the list in 2022 and 2023, now ranks fourth.

These shifts don't reflect meaningful improvements in places like DR Congo. Instead, they highlight a harsher reality: nearly all protracted humanitarian crises are now being neglected.

The shortfall between what was needed and what was delivered in 2024 reached a staggering USD 25 billion, roughly what the world spends on defence every three to four days. In today's changing economic climate, a response plan that reaches just 50 per cent of its target is considered well-funded.

For most of the countries on the list, even that bar was not met. Their response plans scraped by at just over 40 per cent funded, or lower.

On top of this chronic underfunding, the countries appearing in our list struggled to gain meaningful media traction. The displacement crisis in Cameroon, for example, was mentioned fewer than 30,000 times in media outlets across the entire year, compared to almost half a million mentions for the crisis in Ukraine.

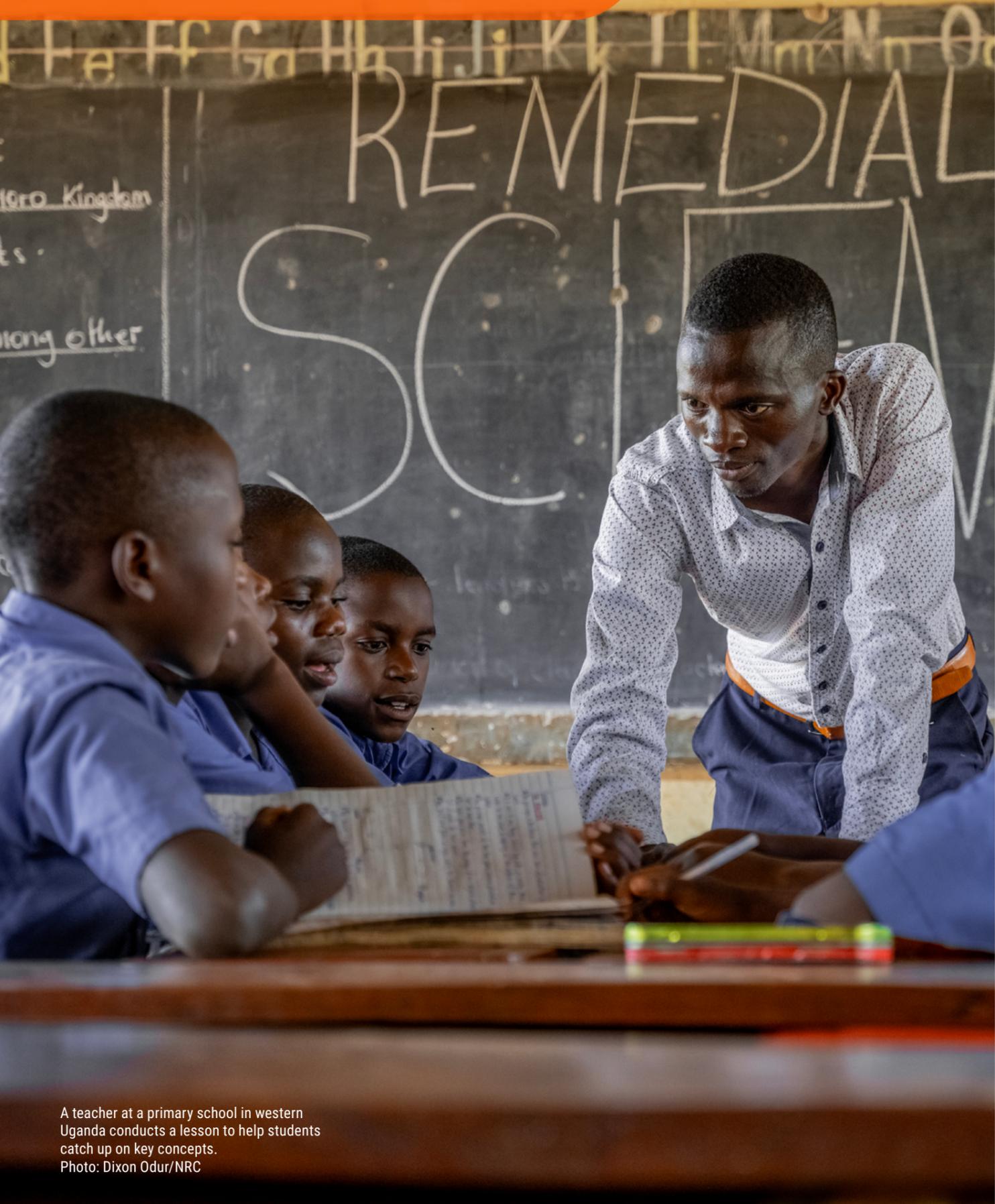
The lack of headlines mirrors a broader failure of political will. While needs escalated, efforts to address the root causes of these crises stalled or were simply abandoned. Humanitarian access remained heavily restricted in several contexts due to insecurity, bureaucratic barriers, and the absence of diplomatic engagement. Millions of displaced people remain unseen, unsupported, and increasingly unreachable.

Climate change is hitting the most vulnerable the hardest. It is displacing people from their homes, destroying fragile livelihoods, and pushing communities already on the brink into even worse conditions. Prolonged droughts, erratic rainfall and increasingly frequent disasters are not only uprooting lives but also eroding food systems. Crops are failing while the ground floods, livestock is dying under merciless heat, and access to water is becoming more unpredictable. Food insecurity has become one of the most devastating and immediate consequences of the climate crisis for displaced people.

As the world turns inward and humanitarian budgets shrink, the needs of people who have been displaced are growing louder, not quieter. The systems meant to respond are no longer fit for purpose, and our approach to crisis must evolve too. In a world reshaping itself politically, economically and environmentally, this is a moment for us all to confront the structural failures driving neglect – to demand accountability and build a response that matches the rapid change.

If we choose to act, to invest, and to stand in solidarity, we can build a future where no-one is left behind. What we do this year will be remembered.

Methodology



A teacher at a primary school in western Uganda conducts a lesson to help students catch up on key concepts.
Photo: Dixon Odur/NRC

COUNTRIES ANALYSED

Definition: Countries that host or have more than 200,000 displaced people and are in a severe crisis (level 4 or 5 according to the INFORM severity index).



MEDIA ATTENTION

Definition: Analyses the level of media coverage of a crisis in proportion to the scale of displacement.

Analysis: Uses Meltwater's media monitoring platform to determine the potential reach of articles on the crisis in four languages – Arabic, English, French and Spanish – by searching for specific displacement-related terms. This is then divided by the number of people displaced by the crisis.



FUNDING COVERAGE

Definition: Evaluates the amount of funding made available by donors to meet humanitarian needs as defined in humanitarian response plans for both internal displacement and refugee crises.

Data sources: Internal displacement: UN OCHA Financial Tracking Service (analyses humanitarian response plans and flash appeals).

Refugee crises: UNHCR Refugee Funding Tracker (analyses regional refugee response plans for host countries).



POLITICAL WILL

Definition: Evaluates the existence and effectiveness of international political engagement efforts to address specific displacement crises.

10 indicators covering:

- Political process and quiet diplomacy
- UN Security Council engagement and actions
- Regional engagement and actions
- International engagement including dedicated envoys, high-level visits and donor pledging
- Broader engagement including access engagement and accountability mechanisms

Scoring: NRC experts score these indicators based on their impact.

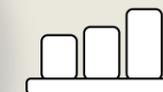


RANKING

Scores from the three criteria are indexed, equally weighted, and combined to create an overall ranking.

Validation: Peer review by regional and country experts ensures data reliability.

Result: The ten crises with the highest scores on neglect are featured in the report.



[Further details of the methodology can be found in the annex.](#)

1



Fadimatou, a refugee from the Central African Republic, hopes for a better future. Photo: Patricia Pouhe/NRC

Rank 2023: 2

Cameroon

We predicted another challenging year for Cameroon in 2024. What we could not anticipate was just how profoundly the crisis would deepen. Indeed, Cameroon tops the neglected crises list for this year.

Three distinct and protracted crises have gripped Cameroon for over a decade: the long-running conflict with armed groups in the Lake Chad Basin, violence in the Northwest and Southwest regions, and continued instability spilling over from the Central African Republic.

By 2024, some 3.4 million people were in urgent need of assistance and protection. Over 1.1 million were internally displaced, while nearly half a million refugees and asylum seekers seeking safety in the country remained stranded in limbo. Around 70 per cent of displaced people lived outside formal camps,

often on marginal land without tenure or legal protection.

Tensions over limited resources, lack of essential civil documentation, and limited access to services pushed people further into hardship. For many, there was no way to earn a living or send their children to school, leaving 1.4 million children in need of education assistance.

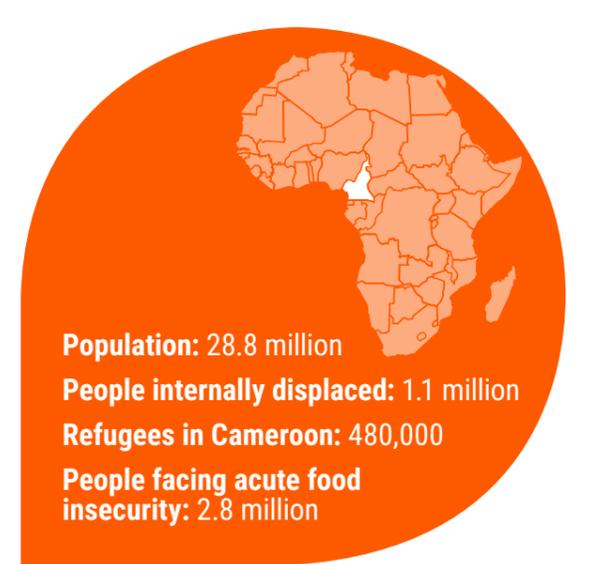
Hunger surged. At least 2.8 million people faced acute food insecurity, driven by ongoing conflict and climate shocks. Flooding and drought, and the worst



Drought and displacement in Cameroon's Far North region take a toll on nature as people cut down trees for firewood. Photo: Ingrid Prestetun/NRC

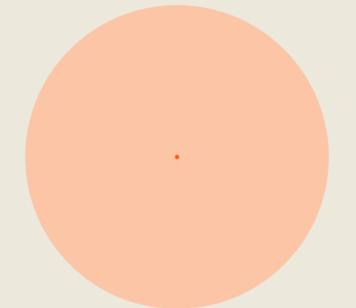
rainy season in the Far North region since 1990, destroyed homes, crops and infrastructure. Yet humanitarian funding covered less than half of the response needs. Just 32 per cent of the funding needed for protection assistance was met, leaving women and displaced communities especially vulnerable to human rights violations.

Cameroon's crisis is a case study in global neglect: under-reported and underfunded. With no signs of renewed attention, support or political engagement, prospects for 2025 are even bleaker.



Media reach

Media coverage of the displacement crisis relative to the number of people displaced.



Negligible, low, medium, large, massive

Humanitarian funding

Percentage of requested humanitarian funding received.



Political will

The existence and effectiveness of political engagement.



0 / 30

Not effective, little effect, somewhat effective, very effective



A group of students study in an open-air classroom in southern Ethiopia, after their school was destroyed by landslides. Photo: Kalkidan Tamirat/NRC

Rank: NEW

Ethiopia

As conflict escalated, displacement surged and food insecurity spread, Ethiopia's growing humanitarian crisis continued to deepen in 2024. By the end of the year, over 2.3 million people had been displaced within the country, facing increasingly desperate conditions.

Violence in the Amhara and Oromia regions showed no signs of slowing, while the aftershocks of the Tigray war continued to reverberate across the north. A deadly mix of intercommunal clashes and disputes over administrative boundaries meant several crises unfolding at once and reinforcing each other in a dangerous loop.

From Tigray to Oromia, the map of needs stretches across nearly the entire country. But reaching those in need has become a growing challenge. Many are stuck in remote, insecure areas where humanitarian access is limited.

Meanwhile, Ethiopia's punishing drought scorched already fragile livelihoods and exacerbated

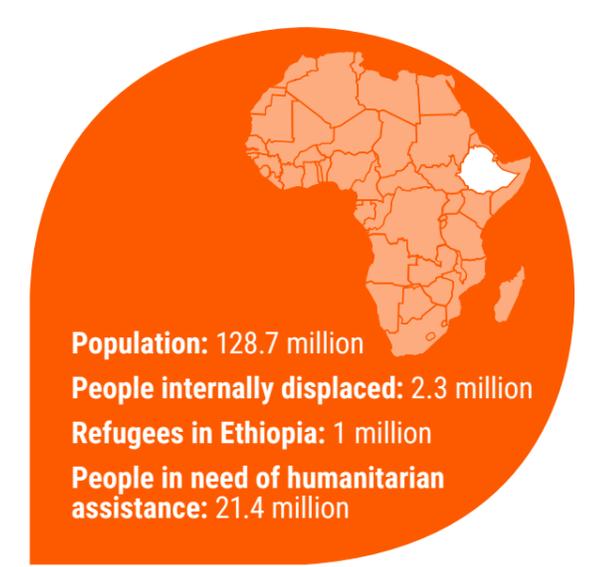
food shortages. Heavy rains and flooding in July 2024 triggered successive landslides in remote, mountainous regions of southern Ethiopia, causing significant loss of life and devastation.

Conflict and climate shocks left over 10 million people in need of food assistance across the country, with a million facing severe food insecurity.

Despite the scale and severity of needs, humanitarian operations remained critically underfunded, leaving millions without enough food, healthcare, or a safe place to sleep. In early 2025, seismic activity displaced thousands more, compounding an already dire situation. So far, there is little sign that the response will improve.

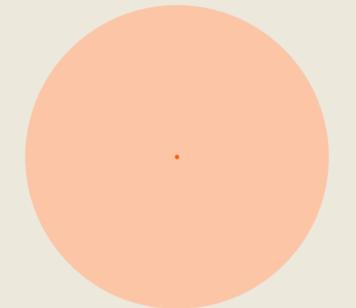


A young girl practises the alphabet. She lost many classmates and her principal in a landslide. Photo: Kalkidan Tamirat/NRC



Media reach

Media coverage of the displacement crisis relative to the number of people displaced.



Negligible, low, medium, large, massive

Humanitarian funding

Percentage of requested humanitarian funding received.

28%

Political will

The existence and effectiveness of political engagement.



5 / 30

Not effective, little effect, somewhat effective, very effective



"We fled violence and joined my daughter. Sadly, she passed away from HIV, leaving all her young children in my care," Virivir explains. Photo: Karl Schembri/NRC

Rank: NEW

Mozambique

In 2024, Mozambique found itself navigating a perfect storm of armed conflict, political turmoil and climate-driven disaster. These overlapping shocks created a volatile and deeply complex humanitarian emergency, making Mozambique one of the world's most neglected displacement crises for the first time.

Armed violence in the northern province of Cabo Delgado continued to uproot communities, while tensions flared nationwide following disputed presidential elections in October. Just weeks later, Tropical Cyclone Chido struck, wreaking havoc on already fragile infrastructure and pushing people deeper into crisis. By the end of the year, almost 600,000 people were displaced by a combination of violence and disaster. Access to food was a major concern, and 2.8 million faced acute food insecurity between April and September.

Despite these mounting needs, the humanitarian response struggled to gain traction. Funding fell drastically short: the 2024 Humanitarian Response

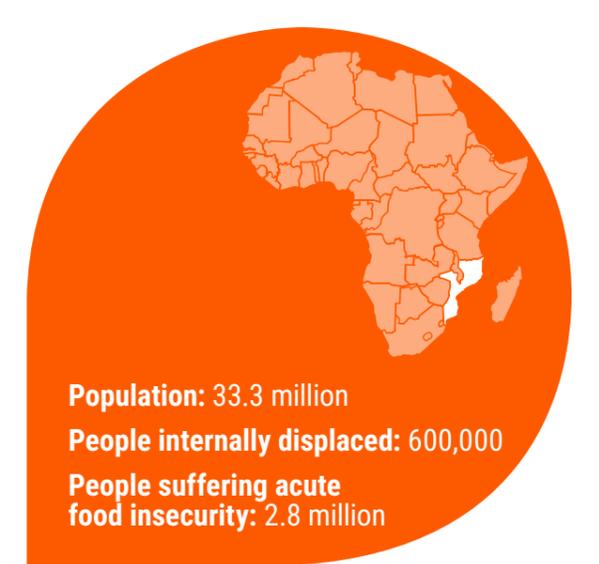
Plan was only 41 per cent funded – its lowest ever level. Food assistance was particularly hard hit, covering just 13 per cent of needs in Cabo Delgado.

Early figures for 2025 indicate another year of unmet needs. The funding secured so far has been extremely limited, signalling a worrying trend and potentially exacerbating the crisis.

Mozambique's crisis has unfolded largely outside the spotlight. Limited media coverage, compounded by competing global crises, has diverted attention and resources. As the world looks elsewhere, Mozambique's multifaceted crisis is becoming increasingly invisible, and increasingly dangerous.

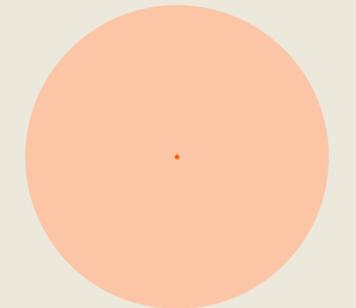


Children sit on the ruins of their local church watching a distribution of emergency shelter kits after Cyclone Chido. Photo: Alix Vaval/NRC



Media reach

Media coverage of the displacement crisis relative to the number of people displaced.



Negligible, low, medium, large, massive

Humanitarian funding

Percentage of requested humanitarian funding received.



Political will

The existence and effectiveness of political engagement.



0 / 30

Not effective, little effect, somewhat effective, very effective

4



Barké is physically disabled and struggles to provide for his family while displaced in eastern Burkina Faso. Photo: Ingebjørg Kårstad/NRC

Rank 2023: 1

Burkina Faso

After five years of hostilities, Burkina Faso entered 2024 mired in a deepening humanitarian crisis. Ongoing insecurity resulted in massive internal displacement and a breakdown of livelihoods.

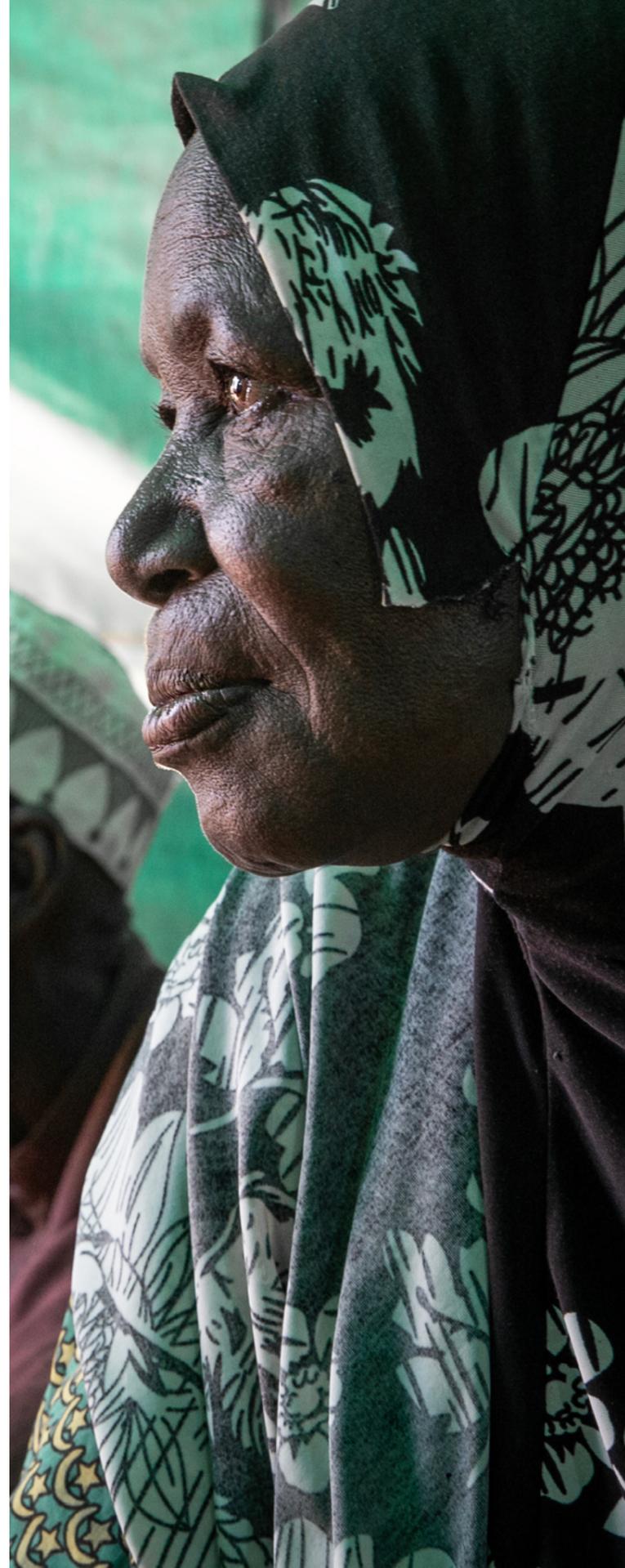
The crisis intensified the burden on local host communities who shared their already limited resources with displaced populations. This generosity underscored remarkable solidarity but also increased the strain on already fragile systems. Many areas of the country remained inaccessible for aid organisations, leaving vulnerable communities with limited or no access to basic needs.

Movement was drastically restricted due to insecurity, isolating more than one million people in numerous towns across the country. Severe food insecurity, driven by shortages and declining agricultural yields, affected some 1.7 million people, leading to high malnutrition levels, particularly for children. A surge in violence resulted in nearly 2,000 civilian deaths between January and September alone.

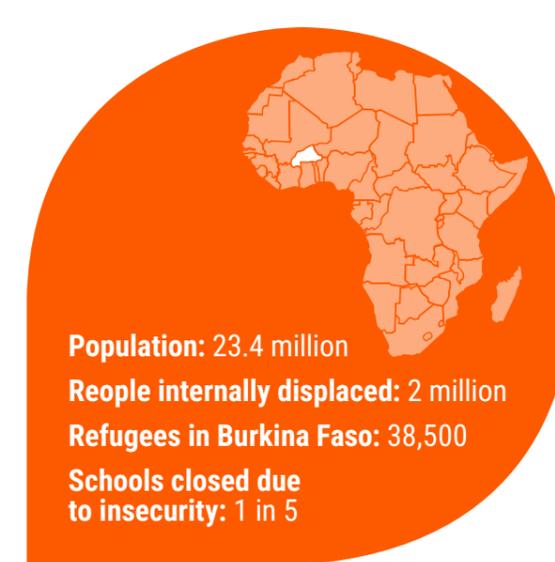
Humanitarian workers were not spared: 2024 saw four killed and four others injured in attacks, adding to a total of nearly 400 incidents since 2019. Mounting insecurity, funding constraints, and other barriers further hampered the humanitarian response.

Education and healthcare systems faced growing challenges. One in five schools remained closed due to insecurity and targeted attacks on education. At the same time, 424 health facilities shut down, leaving four million people without access to care, a tenfold increase since 2023.

While funding improved slightly from 2023, less than half the response was covered in 2024, leaving urgent needs unmet. Looking ahead to 2025, nearly 6 million people are expected to need humanitarian assistance, including more than 2 million who remain displaced.

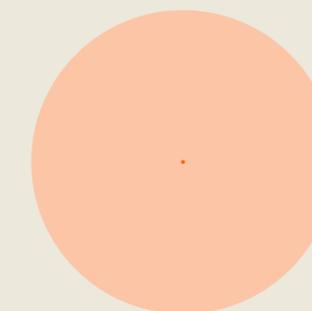


"Here, young and old, we are all starving." Toumbourou and his wife Aicha fled to safety after their village was attacked. Photo: Ingebjørg Kårstad/NRC



Media reach

Media coverage of the displacement crisis relative to the number of people displaced.



Negligible, low, medium, large, massive

Humanitarian funding

Percentage of requested humanitarian funding received.



Political will

The existence and effectiveness of political engagement.



1 / 30

Not effective, little effect, somewhat effective, very effective

5



Oumar, a refugee from Burkina Faso, recently crossed the border into Mali with the family's belongings. Photo: Tidiane Ouedraogo/NRC

Rank 2023: 4

Mali

Nearly 7.1 million people in Mali required urgent humanitarian assistance and protection in 2024. Conditions were particularly dire in the northern and central regions, and yet the Malian crisis remains largely neglected.

The intensification of military activities, especially drone strikes, has severely hampered humanitarians' ability to reach people in need, delaying aid deliveries and forcing many organisations to limit their operations to safer zones.

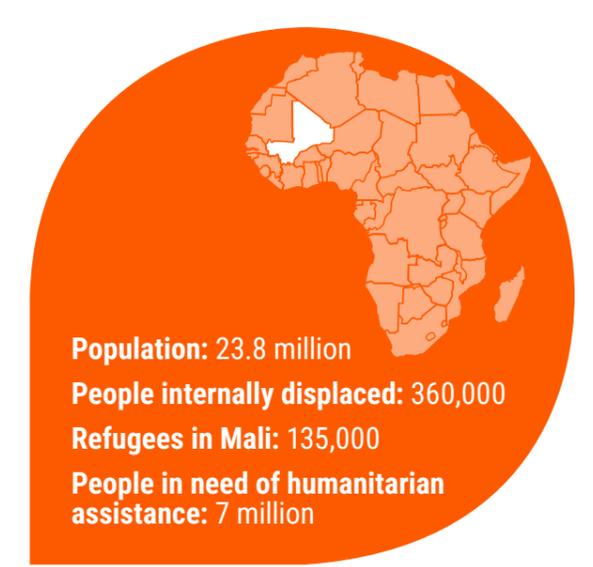
Mali was not spared the devastating effects of climate change. In October 2024, the country was hit with severe flooding that affected nearly 450,000 people, mostly women and children. At the same time, ongoing conflict in neighbouring Burkina Faso triggered the arrival of many refugees, and over 90,000 Burkinabé had crossed the border by the end of the year. Both local and displaced communities buckled under the added pressure, and already limited resources were stretched even thinner.

The mobilisation of funds for humanitarian aid in the country was limited, hindered by timid engagements between the military authorities and several donor nations. Just 39 per cent of the 2024 Humanitarian Response Plan was funded. Some 2.1 million people received assistance, only half the total number of people targeted by the response plan. Media coverage of the crisis has largely focused on the conflict itself, with little international focus on the unfolding humanitarian emergency.

Heading into 2025, funding cuts, climate degradation, intensifying skirmishes and a struggling economy could significantly worsen the situation, with aid efforts facing even greater challenges.

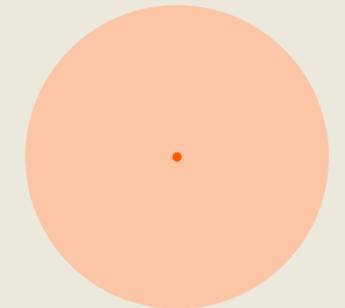


Seydou, a village chief in central Mali. The village welcomed their first internally displaced family in 2018. Photo: Ousmane Drabo/NRC



Media reach

Media coverage of the displacement crisis relative to the number of people displaced.



Negligible, low, medium, large, massive

Humanitarian funding

Percentage of requested humanitarian funding received.



Political will

The existence and effectiveness of political engagement.



0 / 30

Not effective, little effect, somewhat effective, very effective



Phillip, a school representative in northern Uganda, is pleased that a school feeding programme significantly boosted students' attendance. Photo: Dixon Odur/NRC

Rank: NEW

Uganda

Uganda, Africa's largest refugee-hosting country, served as the region's pressure valve in 2024, absorbing the fallout from multiple neighbouring displacement crises. Despite its progressive refugee policy – offering refugees freedom of movement, the right to work, and access to services – the sheer scale of displacement and chronic underfunding placed immense strain on both refugee and host communities. As pressure mounted, the valve itself showed signs of buckling under the weight of prolonged neglect.

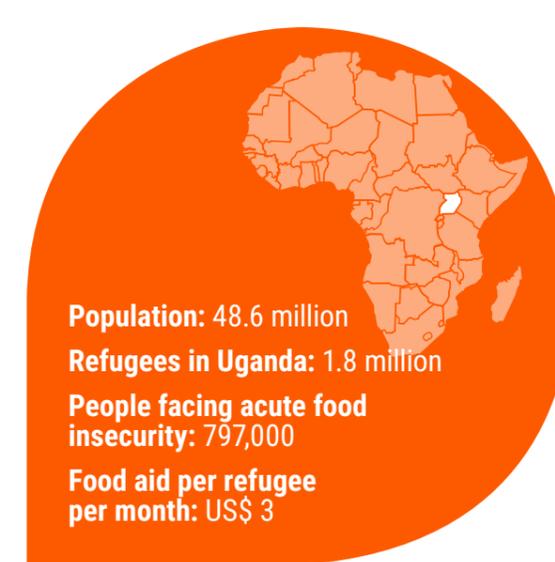
2024 saw Uganda receive new arrivals from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Sudan, and beyond. The refugee population swelled to 1.8 million, with most living in settlements and some in urban centres. Almost 800,000 people faced acute food insecurity, as food assistance was cut to just 3 US dollars per person per month, a figure expected to decline further to 2 US dollars in 2025. With refugee numbers expected to surpass 2 million by the end of 2025, the situation is fast approaching a breaking point.

Reception centres buckled under the strain of new arrivals, operating at over 500 per cent of their intended capacity. Kiryandongo settlement alone

saw more than 8,000 new arrivals in 2024. At certain border crossing points, malnutrition rates among children under five soared to between 18 and 22 per cent. Aid cuts also triggered a rise in negative coping strategies and tensions between refugees and the communities that host them. Despite the escalating crisis, the refugee response plan was only 46 per cent funded, making it one of UNHCR's most underfunded operations globally, a trend that is likely to continue this year. With little visibility, donor fatigue and dwindling global attention, Uganda's exemplary refugee model is increasingly under threat. Without renewed international support, the peaceful coexistence between displaced populations and their hosts may become unsustainable in 2025 and beyond.

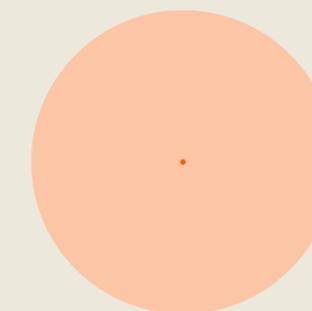


A charcoal selling point in Nakivale refugee settlement in southern Uganda, the oldest refugee settlement in Africa. Photo: Fernanda Baumhardt/NRC



Media reach

Media coverage of the displacement crisis relative to the number of people displaced.



Negligible, low, medium, large, massive

Humanitarian funding

Percentage of requested humanitarian funding received.



Political will

The existence and effectiveness of political engagement.



0 / 30

Not effective, little effect, somewhat effective, very effective

7



Literacy class for Afghan refugee children who missed out on the formal school system. Photo: Zahra Choopankareh/NRC

Rank: NEW

Iran

Afghan refugees in Iran faced a sharp deterioration of their already fragile situation in 2024. Mounting economic pressures, international sanctions, and a government decision to deport two million Afghans compounded their vulnerabilities.

While the arrest and deportation of undocumented Afghans had been an ongoing issue, the government's new policy restrictions on access to essential public services – such as education – marked a dramatic shift, leaving millions of refugees even more at risk.

Iran has hosted displaced Afghans for over four decades and is currently home to 3.8 million recognised Afghans. However, the total Afghan population in the country is estimated to be around six million, including those without legal status. Despite extensive sanctions and limited international support, Iran now hosts the largest refugee population globally.

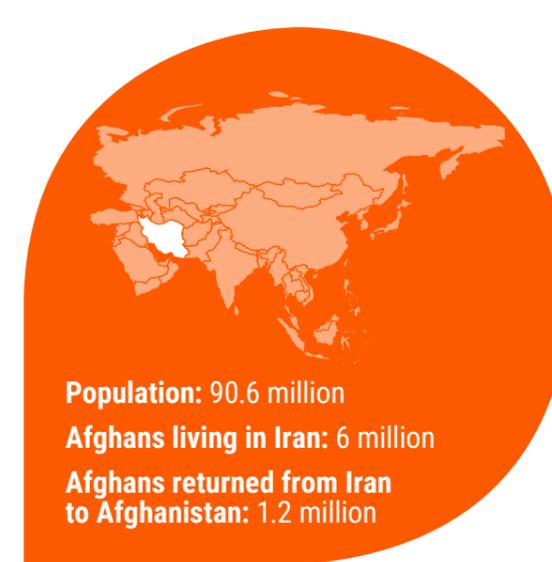
In 2024, the response plan to support refugees in Iran received only 25 per cent of the required funding. Political and media focus remained largely on Iran's geopolitical role, overshadowing the urgent humanitarian needs of Afghan refugees and the lack of sustainable solutions for those returning to Afghanistan.

Iranian authorities launched a deportation plan targeting the two million undocumented refugees, while halting the renewal of key temporary legal documentation that had protected refugees from arrest and granted them access to essential services. With rising inflation and limited access to resources,



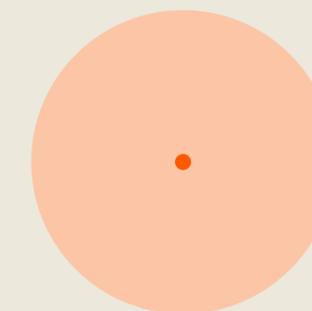
Afghans returning from Iran via the Islam Qala border. Photo: Maisam Shafiey/NRC

Afghan refugees in Iran are now grappling with even greater instability, alongside the fear of being deported. Reportedly, by September 2025, a significant number of Afghans who have recently lost their legal status are expected to be deported by the authorities. Given the difficult conditions prevailing in Afghanistan, many are becoming trapped in a cycle of forced return and irregular re-entry, finding their way back into Iran or getting caught in repeated displacement across the border.



Media reach

Media coverage of the displacement crisis relative to the number of people displaced.



Negligible, low, medium, large, massive

Humanitarian funding

Percentage of requested humanitarian funding received.



Political will

The existence and effectiveness of political engagement.



0 / 30

Not effective, little effect, somewhat effective, very effective



"Since we arrived here two months ago, we have not received any assistance," says Beatrice, a widow displaced in eastern DR Congo. Photo: Ed Prior/NRC

Rank 2023: 3

DR Congo

The Democratic Republic of the Congo may have dropped from third place last year to eighth on this year's neglected crises list, but this shift in ranking does not reflect any real progress. The humanitarian situation continued to spiral in 2024, driven by relentless violence and mounting health emergencies.

In North Kivu, Ituri and South Kivu provinces, armed conflict intensified, with fighting directly affecting displacement camps and urban outskirts. By mid-year, the number of internally displaced people had surpassed a record-high seven million.

Around the city of Goma as well as in Minova, South Kivu province, thousands of families fled renewed violence only to find themselves living in overcrowded, unsafe conditions, without clean water, healthcare, or schooling for their children. In South Kivu alone, nearly 1.5 million people were forced to flee their homes. Exposure to sexual violence was widespread, and harmful coping mechanisms, including survival sex, became distressingly common.

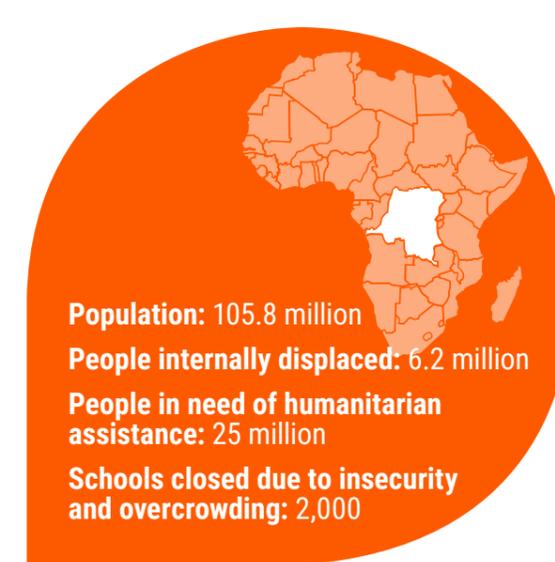
The situation worsened further in the second quarter of 2024 with an mpox outbreak, hitting displaced populations the hardest.

Despite the surge in needs, humanitarian assistance lagged behind, with only 52 per cent of the required funding secured.

The outlook for 2025 is already grim. The escalation of conflict and dramatic displacement that uprooted hundreds of thousands is expected to drive a sharp increase in humanitarian needs. At the same time, widespread funding cuts signal a complex year ahead, one that risks being met with continued indifference from the international community.

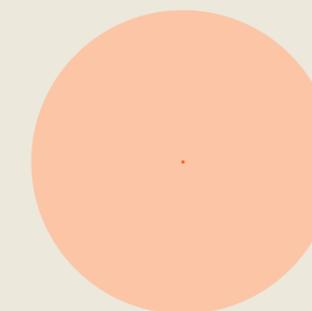


Gilbert fled violence five years ago. He has not been able to enrol any of his seven children in school due to a lack of resources. Photo: Marion Guenard/NRC



Media reach

Media coverage of the displacement crisis relative to the number of people displaced.



Negligible, low, medium, large, massive

Humanitarian funding

Percentage of requested humanitarian funding received.



Political will

The existence and effectiveness of political engagement.



2 / 30

Not effective, little effect, somewhat effective, very effective

9



Vilma and Jose's family were extorted and when they could not pay, the gang gave them hours to leave their home in Honduras. Photo: Mayela Molina/NRC

Rank 2023: 6

Honduras

Hondurans cannot afford to ignore the daily impacts of violence, disaster and forced displacement – but the world has. In 2024, their crisis remained neglected, underfunded, and dangerously unresolved.

Of the 2.8 million people in need of humanitarian aid, only 36.2 per cent received assistance. Violence, displacement and climate shocks continued to drive people from their homes. Some 245,000 Hondurans were in the process of seeking asylum during 2024, while at least 100,000 were displaced within the country due to violence. This is likely an underestimate, masking the true scale of the crisis.

The entrenched presence and control of gangs, cartels and criminal groups continued to force people to flee and restrict access to aid.

Many thousands of Hondurans fled north in search of safety and a better life, the majority with no

option but to do so by their own means. Resettlement programmes offered hope to a limited number, with around 7,000 people finding a new life through this pathway between 2019 and 2024, mostly in the United States. At the same time, over 23,000 Hondurans were forcibly returned during 2024, primarily from the US and Mexico.

Nearly 375,000 refugees and migrants from elsewhere transited through the country on their own journeys north. Most were from Venezuela, Cuba, Haiti, Ecuador and Colombia, but others came from countries as far afield as China, India and Jordan.



Yesenia, mother of a family of seven who had to flee their home after her son witnessed a multiple homicide five years ago. Photo: Mayela Molina/NRC

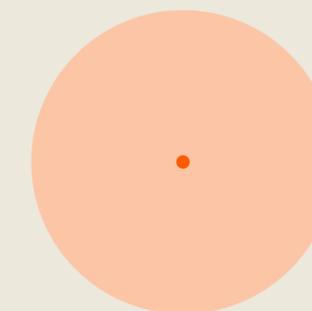
Honduras remained vulnerable to disasters in 2024. In November, Tropical Storm Sara unleashed floods and landslides across nearly a third of the country, affecting more than 250,000 people.

As humanitarian space shrinks, funding is reduced, and access to asylum and resettlement pathways close, the risks facing people in Honduras are set to multiply in the year ahead while options for a safer future diminish.



Media reach

Media coverage of the displacement crisis relative to the number of people displaced.



Negligible, low, medium, large, massive

Humanitarian funding

Percentage of requested humanitarian funding received.



31%

Political will

The existence and effectiveness of political engagement.



4 / 30

Not effective, little effect, somewhat effective, very effective



Mandeq prepares samosas for sale. Her small business generates enough income to send her children to school. Photo: Abdulkadir Mohamed/NRC

Rank: NEW

Somalia

Somalia continued to grapple with a devastating and multifaceted humanitarian crisis in 2024, driven by the compounding effects of prolonged drought, entrenched conflict and economic instability. These overlapping pressures fuelled widespread displacement and deepened food insecurity, pushing millions further into vulnerability.

By the end of the year, 3.5 million people had been internally displaced. Many were forced to flee due to violence, failed rains or loss of livelihoods. Over 154,000 people were forcibly evicted, often ending up in overcrowded informal settlements without reliable access to clean water, healthcare or shelter. The scale of need was staggering, yet Somalia remained largely overlooked on the global stage. Limited media coverage, donor fatigue, and competing international crises led to dangerously low funding levels and constrained humanitarian operations.

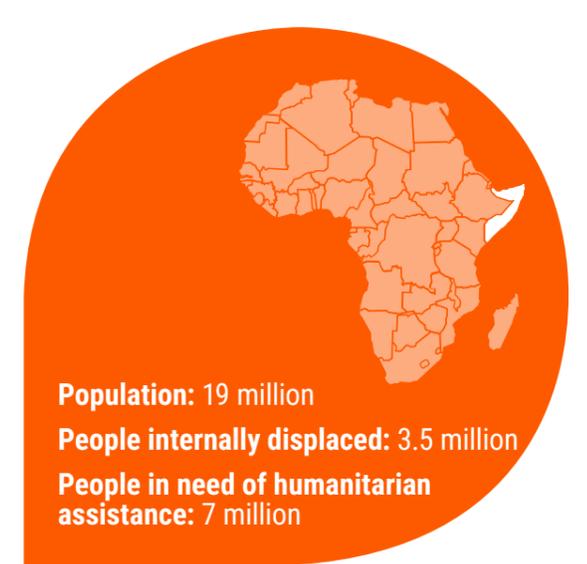
Somalia also hosted over 43,000 refugees and asylum seekers, primarily from neighbouring Ethiopia and Yemen. Most lived in urban areas with little to no access to essential services, and their needs remained largely unmet. The impact of this neglect

was felt most acutely in food and nutrition, with more than 4.4 million people facing food insecurity. Malnutrition was particularly acute in rural areas, where repeated crop failures decimated crops, leading to soaring food prices. Children bore the brunt, and this is likely to worsen in 2025. Some 1.7 million children under the age of five are projected to suffer from acute malnutrition, including nearly half a million facing the most life-threatening form.

The forecasted La Niña weather pattern in 2025 is expected to plunge large parts of the country back into severe drought, compounding existing vulnerabilities and triggering further waves of displacement. With rising hunger, deteriorating nutrition and overstretched services, Somalia's crisis risks deepening even further.

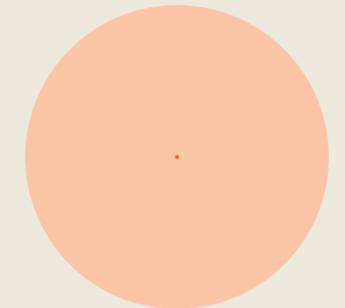


Nurto, a mother of nine children stands in front of her new house in Kaam Ajuran displacement camp in central Somalia. Photo: Abdulkadir Mohamed/NRC



Media reach

Media coverage of the displacement crisis relative to the number of people displaced.



Negligible, low, medium, large, massive

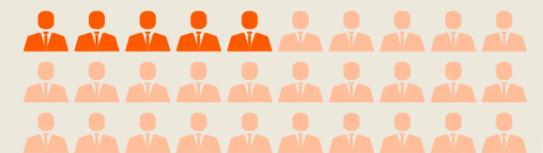
Humanitarian funding

Percentage of requested humanitarian funding received.



Political will

The existence and effectiveness of political engagement.



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Not effective, little effect, somewhat effective, very effective

Recommendations

Although an identical formula will not work for all the neglected displacement crises in this report, the recommendations below suggest measures that can be taken by different stakeholders to address political, financial and media neglect.

Recommendations to donor governments:

- Allocate humanitarian funding according to the needs of the people affected and the collective response plans, rather than according to geopolitical interests or levels of media attention towards certain crises. These allocations should not overlook protracted displacement crises or refugee-hosting contexts with a high severity of needs.

- Increase humanitarian and development budgets for protracted crises and for neglected and underfunded contexts with severe needs, working toward the existing target of spending 0.7 per cent of gross national income on official development assistance (ODA). At the same time, ensure that any in-country refugee costs are not part of ODA but are from another budget line.

- As nearly every protracted crisis is also a neglected crisis, donor governments must identify alternative approaches to financing and responding to protracted crises that contribute to finding solutions to the root causes of the crises.

- Ensure maximum flexibility, both in existing and new funding agreements, to enable continued support for crises and sectors impacted by the reduction in humanitarian funding from the United States (US).

- Increase quality funding in the humanitarian system – including through timely, flexible and multi-year allocations – in addition to direct funding to frontline and local responders. This ensures that responses in neglected contexts can be quickly adapted to meet new and emerging needs.

- Engage with a broader stakeholder group, including non-traditional and new donors, development banks and private sector actors, to attract additional funding to support people in need.

- Influence development finance actors, including international financial institutions and climate finance actors, to invest in displacement-affected contexts. Complementary humanitarian, development, peace and climate financing is key to meeting the needs of displacement-affected people,

addressing recurring challenges and helping tackle the root causes of displacement.

- Use diplomatic leverage to address access and other operational constraints.

- Support and initiate humanitarian diplomacy initiatives that get conflicting parties to the negotiating table.

- In contexts where there have been unconstitutional changes in government, look for ways to maintain development funding rather than suspending it. Donors can build on the good practices already documented to find ways of continuing to meet the needs of people in areas or countries governed by de facto authorities.

- Be proactive in bringing attention to neglected displacement crises. Together with other relevant stakeholders, organise high-level pledging events, appoint special envoys, and promote initiatives to achieve humanitarian goals through diplomatic means.

- In domestic contexts where arguments and evidence are needed for engagement with parliaments and the public to raise awareness, use the evidence-based analysis from implementing organisations on impact, needs and solutions in neglected crisis contexts.

- Uphold pledges made at the Global Refugee Forum and in connection with the Global Compact on Refugees. These are vital for continued responsibility sharing. Refugee protection is an international responsibility and not solely for select hosting states. The rights and protection of refugee populations, including but not limited to self-reliance, must be upheld by all hosting states with adequate and sustained resource support from international donors.

Recommendations to UN member states:

- Ensure that neglected and protracted crises are given adequate attention by the UN Security Council (UNSC) and relevant multilateral forums and bodies. This includes holding dedicated geographic,

regional and thematic meetings, and tabling votes and resolutions where appropriate.

- Use the UNSC mandate to its full extent to urge and ensure all parties to conflict to respect international humanitarian law, particularly in contexts where there are access constraints, disregard for the rules of war, and increasing violations of protection of civilians. Where violations are identified, support international accountability mechanisms.

- Prioritise effective diplomatic engagement and mediation with all conflict parties to secure unfettered humanitarian access and the protection of vulnerable populations, particularly in politically sensitive contexts where existing processes may not be effective.

- Negotiate on behalf of vulnerable population to address increasingly burdensome bureaucratic and administrative impediments imposed by authorities.

- Help humanitarian organisations secure safe and unimpeded access to hard-to-reach areas. Ensure that counterterrorism measures and sanctions do not unintentionally prevent humanitarian organisations working in difficult operating environments from trying to reach those most in need quickly and safely.

- Foster high-level political engagement at national and regional levels in support of inclusive political solutions. Only an end to conflict and violence will enable longer-term stability in complex and protracted displacement crises.

- Commit to increasing refugee resettlement quotas and ensure safe and legal routes for all those fleeing all crises – not just those in the headlines.

Recommendations to the humanitarian community in affected countries:

- Strengthen humanitarian leadership in countries trapped in protracted cycles of neglect, through senior humanitarian profiles with mandates to engage on behalf of the humanitarian community and raise issues at the highest level with national, regional and international stakeholders.

- Identify potential alternative mechanisms to plan for and respond to protracted displacement crises.

- As OCHA downsizes in certain countries, ensure remaining coordination efforts optimise the use of resources and the added value of each actor in the response, including UN agencies, INGOs and local actors.

- Streamline efforts to provide collective evidence-based analysis to donors to help shape annual humanitarian aid allocations based on the severity of needs.

- Increase advocacy efforts towards new stakeholders to broaden the donor base – including new donor countries, the private sector and foundations – and engage relevant new stakeholders in initiatives to support humanitarian outcomes through diplomatic processes.

- Invest in advocacy for neglected crises. Country operations that receive the least funding often cannot afford advocacy and communication resources, making it difficult to draw attention to these crises at an international level. This contributes to the vicious cycle of neglect as needs worsen.

- Link up with foreign policy think tanks, research institutions, financial actors, and others that can help approach neglected displacement crises from different perspectives in decision-making capitals. Collectively press for humanitarian issues to be included in broader policy debates.

Recommendations to journalists and editors:

- Invest in journalism from underreported displacement crises and commit to informing audiences about topics and contexts that are often off the media radar. Report in a way that places a focus on human stories, the humanitarian impact of conflicts, and the solutions needed by all parties.

- If red tape such as lack of media permissions, visas or other access issues hinders reporting from a crisis, use media platforms to advocate for the necessary changes. Explore digital and remote solutions to get firsthand accounts from people on the ground.

- Advocate for the protection of press freedom and the safety of journalists to ensure domestic and international journalists working in crisis-affected countries can continue to report.

Recommendations to the general public:

- Help hold your government and politicians to account against existing commitments around aid levels and displacement-related policies – such as legal routes for migrants and asylum seekers and resettlement quotas. Write letters, sign petitions, and submit questions to your national legislatures.

- Read up on neglected displacement crises and support quality journalism that covers them. Speak up about these crises and share articles and stories on social media.

- When donating, try to give as generously to crises far from the media spotlight as you do to those in the headlines. If possible, make your donation unrestricted so it can be spent on the crisis that needs it the most at that time.

Women carry their emergency shelter kits at a distribution following Cyclone Chido in Mozambique.
Photo: Alix Vaval/NRC



Conclusions

While each of the ten crises outlined in this report should be given dedicated support and attention, we can draw several broad conclusions across them:

- The world is witnessing record-high levels of displacement, with the number of internally displaced people surging in 2024. Conflict, climate shocks, and political and economic turmoil are causing more people to flee than ever before.
- Nearly every protracted crisis today is also a neglected one. From ongoing conflicts to environmental disasters, crises around the world are met with shrinking budgets, limited media coverage and fading political will. The combined force of these factors is not only amplifying humanitarian needs but also prolonging crises year after year.
- Crises are no longer confined within borders. Many of the crises featured here are interconnected, with instability in one country sparking displacement, hunger and insecurity in its neighbours. With resources stretched thin and funding decreasing, tensions between refugees and host communities are growing.
- In many cases, the countries bearing the most responsibility for sheltering displaced people receive the least in return. Often grappling with their own challenges, refugee-hosting nations are being left to shoulder rising needs as the international community continues to disengage.
- Climate-driven disasters are forcing people to flee and exacerbating hunger across nearly all countries in this report. Extreme weather events, such as droughts, floods and failed harvests, are destroying livelihoods and displacing millions. Combined with inflation and economic shocks, food insecurity has reached alarming levels.
- Funding shortfalls are becoming the norm. In today's changing climate, a response plan that reaches just 50 per cent of its target is considered well-funded. For countries on this list, even that bare minimum remains out of reach. The majority of their response plans scraped by at just over 40 per cent funded or less in 2024. The gap will only widen with global funding cuts, leaving millions more vulnerable.
- People are cut off from aid and essential services across many of the contexts in this report, whether because of insecurity, bureaucratic hurdles, or a growing disregard for humanitarian principles among parties to conflicts.
- Media silence is being reinforced by restrictions on press freedom and barriers that prevent journalists from reaching those areas where the world's attention is needed most.
- Peace remains the only true solution in areas of conflict and repeated displacement. But without true political will – nationally, regionally and internationally – to pursue inclusive peace processes, the situation will only worsen. Humanitarian diplomacy must be reinvigorated to shift the trajectory.



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